

Application No. 10/718,696
Attorney Docket No. 02-343144 (YAN.039)

REMARKS

Claims 3-5, 8-10, and 13-15 are all the claims presently pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 3, 8, and 13 are amended, and claims 1-2, 6-7, and 11-12 are canceled. The amendments introduce no new matter.

It is noted that claim amendments, if any, are made only to assure grammatical and idiomatic English and improved form under United States practice, and are not made to distinguish the invention over the prior art or narrow the claims or for any statutory requirements of patentability. Further, Applicant specifically states that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 3-5, 8-10, and 13-15 would be allowable if re-written in independent form. By this amendment, claims 3, 8, and 13 are amended to be in independent form, including all features and limitations of the claims from which they previously depended. For at least this reason, Applicant submits that all claims herein are patentable.

Claims 1-2, 6-7, and 11-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Yi (U.S. Patent 7,003,040) in view of Imagawa et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0031262). While Applicant completely disagrees with the Examiner's rejection, claims 1-2, 6-7, and 11-12 are canceled to speed prosecution. Thus, the rejection of claims 1-2, 6-7, and 11-12 is moot.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 3-5, 8-10, and 13-15, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are allowable, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Such action would be appreciated.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary for allowance in a telephonic or personal interview.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency in fees, including extension of time fees, or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

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